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RR CONSTRUCTION IN WEST CHINA BRANCH LINE TO SUPPLY COAL TO CHUNGKING

Summary -- The 16 piers for the 382-meter-long bridge across the Fou Chiang at Mien-yang, Szechwan, on the Ch'eng-tu--T'ien-shui line, were finished before the end of May 1953. Most of the bridges between Ch'eng-tu and Mien-yang have been completed.

Regular operation of trains bringing out coal for Chungking began 12 July 1953 on the 33-kilometer extension of the Ch'i-chiang railway, from Wen-t'ang to Wan-sheng, in Nan-ch'uan Hsien, Szechwan.

Figures for the operation of the railway lines under the control of the Canton Railway Bureau showed that the goals for the first 6 months of 1953 were surpassed by substantial amounts.

PROGRESS ON CH'ENG-TU--T'IEN-SHUI LINE -- Hong Kong, Ta Kung Pao, 1 Jul 53

For the 118 kilometers of track between Ch'eng-tu and Mien-yang, there are required 6 large bridges, 16 medium-sized bridges, 109 small bridges and 173 culverts. The majority of these are completed.

The most difficult project was the construction of the bridge across the Fou Chiang at Mien-yang. This bridge is 382 meters long and has 16 piers. A number of 200-ton caissons were used in building the piers. A layer of egg-sized gravel from 3 to 4 meters thick had to be removed from the bedrock to reach a suitable foundation. When a caisson was being lowered into position, more than ten pumps were required to pump out the water. The pumps were old and some of them were driven by converted truck engines. These pumps had a combined capacity of 10,000 gallons per minute.

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In April, the rate at which caissons were lowered was 1.6 meters per day; in May, the rate was 2.2 meters per day. By the end of May, before the flood waters arrived, all of the 16 piers were finished.

BRANCH LINE TO SUPPLY COAL TO CHUNGKING -- Tientsin, Ta Kung Pao, 27 Jul 53

(Hsin-hua She) -- In July 1952, a short branch of the Ch'i-chiang railway was constructed from San-chiang /approximately 106 42, 28 527 to Wen-t'ang, in T'ung-tzu Hsien, Kweichow. On 12 July 1953, trains began regular operation on a 33-kilometer extension of this branch line from Wen-t'ang to Wan-sheng, in Nan-ch'uan Hsien, Szechwan. The main purpose of this extension is to bring out coal for Chungking.

CANTON BUREAU SURPASSES GOALS -- Hong Kong, Ta Kung Pao, 29 Sep 53

Canton, 28 September -- In a conference of railway officials and other officials, held $1\frac{1}{4}$ - 17 September 1953, the Canton Railway Bureau released data for the first half of 1953 as follows:

The planned number of passengers transported was surpassed by 16.7 percent.

The planned number of car loadings was surpassed by 15.3 percent.

The revenue target for this period was surpassed by 67.7 percent, which is 68.5 percent of the target for the whole year.

The expenditures for this period were less than the planned figure by 0.8 percent.

The profit realized in the first 6 months was 309.7 percent of the figure set for this period; this was 149.3 percent of the goal for the whole year.

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- 2 -

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